



Michigan Department of Community Health, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933

2013-14 FLU SEASON

Vaccine Strains Selection

Last week, the World Health Organization (WHO) [recommended changing](#) one of the three vaccine strains for the Northern Hemisphere's 2013-14 flu season, based on the changing profile of circulating influenza B strains. On Wednesday, Feb. 27 the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) vaccine advisory group recommended the same three strains which include:

- A/California/7/2009 (H1H1) pdm09
- A/Victoria/361/2011 (H3N2)
- B/Massachusetts/2/2012, which replaces B/Wisconsin/1/2010

The recommendation is different than the one WHO recommended for the Southern Hemisphere which included the same three strains as the year before.

For vaccine companies that plan to make quadrivalent (four-strain) vaccine that contains two influenza B strains, the WHO recommends including a virus similar to Brisbane/60/2008, which was a component of the Northern Hemisphere's trivalent vaccine for the 2011-12 flu season and is from the Victoria lineage.

New Vaccines

Four new influenza vaccines were [added to the guidance](#) for the 2013-2014 season following a meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The new vaccines, all approved within the last year, are:

- [Flucelvax by Novartis](#) -- a trivalent, cell culture-based inactivated influenza vaccine (cclIV3) approved for use in individuals 18 and older.
- [Flublok by Protein Sciences Corporation](#) -- a trivalent, recombinant hemagglutinin vaccine (RIV3) approved for use in adults ages 18 to 49
- [FluMist Quadrivalent by MedImmune](#) -- a quadrivalent LAIV approved for healthy, nonpregnant individuals ages 2 to 49 (all FluMist will protect against two A strains and two B strains for the upcoming season)
- [Fluarix Quadrivalent by GlaxoSmithKline](#) -- a quadrivalent, inactivated influenza vaccine (IIV4) approved for individuals ages 3 and older

ANTIVIRALS

In a [preliminary study](#) in cells and animal models, researchers report a flu antiviral drug candidate that represents a new class of drug.

HUMIDITY AND INFLUENZA

A study in [PLOS One](#) found that higher indoor humidity, greater than 40%, may reduce the infectivity of flu viruses aerosolized during coughing.

PANDEMIC VACCINE AND NARCOLEPSY

A recent European study found an increased risk of narcolepsy following vaccination with Pandemrix, an adjuvanted monovalent 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine that was used widely in Europe during the H1N1 influenza pandemic. Pandemrix was not licensed for use in the US - in fact, no adjuvanted flu vaccines are licensed in the US.

- [Promed Update](#)
- [CIDRAP News Article](#)

INFLUENZA-RELATED NEWS ARTICLES

- [CDC midseason check finds scant flu vaccine effect for seniors](#)
- [Flu activity continues its slow retreat](#)
- [Flu season winding down in Michigan](#)
- [Influenza Study: Meet Virus' New Enemy](#)
- [Cold and Flu Sufferers Should Ease Back Into Fitness Routine](#)

On Wednesday, February 13 the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee [held a hearing](#) on the 2012-2013 influenza season, its impact on Americans, and the nation's preparedness and response efforts. Dr. Tom Frieden, Director of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided witness testimony.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

- [Cambodia reports another H5N1 death](#)
- [Cambodian man dies from H5N1 infection](#)

WEBSITES

www.michigan.gov/flu
www.cdc.gov/flu
www.flu.gov
<http://vaccine.healthmap.org/>

NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE SUMMIT (NIVS) IMMUNIZATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

NIVS is soliciting candidates for the [2013 NIVS Immunization Excellence](#) Awards. The 2013 awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions towards improved adult, and/or childhood influenza vaccination rates.

The Immunization Action Coalition published their February edition of [Vaccinate Adults](#).

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